

East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

Meeting Date: August 12, 2020

Subject/Title: Prevention Division Update

Submitted by: Steve Aubert, Fire Marshal

Prevention Division

The Prevention Division is pleased to provide a synopsis of the past month's activities that included a number of fire investigations, inspections of new construction and existing occupancies, citations with a joint enforcement for the 4th of July, and support of large scale incidents throughout the District.

We would like to further provide an update of a conceptual plan that we have been working on with the Diablo Water District for the on-going maintenance of the 1,600 hydrants located predominately in the City of Oakley. Prior to the consolidation and the formation of the District, Diablo Water District (DWD) adopted a resolution that all hydrants connected to their water distribution system were the responsibility of the District. In order to be in-line with our other water purveyors throughout the District, staff has been diligently working with DWD staff to provide a resolution that both the Fire District and the Water District could support. We intend to bring these concepts in a formal resolution at an upcoming meeting:

- ECCFPD Responsibilities:
 - Perform first round of greasing caps (replacing if missing) and painting hydrants/valves, timing TBD. No flushing or turn valves.
 - Provide DWD with a small inventory of common hydrant parts at the start of the program. Parts and quantity TBD.
 - Continue to require developers to install new fire hydrants on new developments
 - Memorialize through resolution that the hydrants will be the real property of DWD
- DWD Responsibilities:
 - Visit and service (paint and grease) each hydrant every 5 – 7 years
 - Also check for water flow at hydrants during these visits. Due to water quality concerns, hydrants may run at full flow or simply burped with 100 gallons +/-
 - Annually provide flow rates for all hydrants from our hydraulic model
 - Labor to repair/replace hydrant due to being hit by car
 - Parts and labor for ongoing maintenance
 - Memorialize through resolution that the hydrants will be the real property of DWD
 - Indemnity should a hydrant fail

Engineering New Construction

Permit activity in July jumped up quite a bit, even with COVID-19 restrictions still in place. A total of 89 projects were submitted for permits during the month. 70 of these were for multi-lot single family residential sprinklers. Additionally, a new 108 lot development was submitted for review.

Plan Review / Permit Revenue for the month of July was \$83,770

Code Enforcement

Our code enforcement efforts for the month have continued to be focused on State Mandated inspections throughout the schools. This included daily coordination with each school district as COVID-19 guidelines for the schools seem to change daily. Inspectors have to be flexible and provide creative solutions to various issues relating to fire code violations and gaining compliance in this new normal. They have completed two High School inspections which clocked a total of over 48,000 steps. Included in our activities for the month were apartment inspections, residential care for the elderly pre-inspection, and enacted a fire watch of an apartment complex quickly bringing the facility back into compliance for a faulty fire alarm system.

Citations

We issued two citations and one warning for the month of July. These included citations for illegal fireworks on our 4th of July enforcement and for an illegal burn with associated fire code violations. No appeals requested to date.

Exterior Hazard Weed Abatement

For the month of July, we received an additional 86 complaints of vegetation hazards throughout the District. We have been working diligently with the reporting parties to correctly identify the problem property and get these properties started in the notification process. We were able to close out 23 complaints with working with the property owners and for a total since June 1st, have received 221 complaints with a total of 51 properties able to remedy on their own without further encouragement from the District.

Investigations

For the month of July, we provided fire investigations support for one suspicious fire in unincorporated Brentwood and sixteen accidental fires. We also provided assistance to Brentwood PD for a marijuana grow house in Brentwood. Stay vigilant and be aware of those around as you respond and approach the scenes. The District as a whole has responded to 18 fires for a fire loss of \$231,500.00. Very busy month for investigations on top of our daily assignments.

Fire Aides

Our Fire Aides continue to assist and provide the primary inspections of all complaints received for our vegetation abatement program. They also assisted on a number of our large fires that we had over the month providing logistical support to the Operations division providing food, water, and assistance in getting our crews up and operational such as picking up over 1,000 feet of hose from our Holland Tract fire.